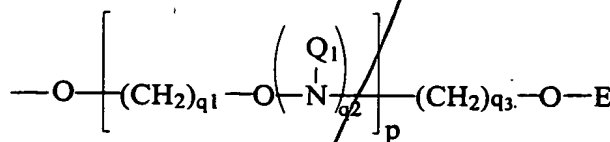


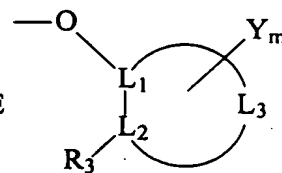
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An oligonucleotide comprising a plurality of nucleotides, wherein:
a first portion of said plurality of nucleotides have B-form conformational geometry and are joined together in a continuous sequence, at least two of said nucleotides of said first portion being ribonucleotides or arabinonucleotides; and
a further portion of said plurality of nucleotides are ribonucleotide that have A-form conformation geometry and are joined together in at least one continuous sequence.
2. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CF₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'=CH₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'=CHF ribonucleotide, a 2'=CF₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-C₂H₅ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH=CH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide.
3. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each of said nucleotides of said first portion are joined together in said continuous sequence by phosphate, phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate or boranophosphate linkages.

4. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-fluoro nucleotide or a nucleotide having a 2'-substituent having the formula I or II:



I



II

wherein

E is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, N(Q₁)(Q₂) or N=C(Q₁)(Q₂);

each Q₁ and Q₂ is, independently, H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, a nitrogen protecting group, a tethered or untethered conjugate group, a linker to a solid support, or Q₁ and Q₂, together, are joined in a nitrogen protecting group or a ring structure that can include at least one additional heteroatom selected from N and O;

R₃ is OX, SX, or N(X)₂;

each X is, independently, H, C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₁-C₈ haloalkyl, C(=NH)N(H)Z, C(=O)N(H)Z or OC(=O)N(H)Z;

Z is H or C₁-C₈ alkyl;

L₁, L₂ and L₃ form a ring system having from about 4 to about 7 carbon atoms or having from about 3 to about 6 carbon atoms and 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur and wherein said ring system is aliphatic, unsaturated aliphatic, aromatic, or saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic;

Y is alkyl or haloalkyl having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, alkenyl having 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, alkynyl having 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, aryl having 6 to about 14 carbon atoms, N(Q₁)(Q₂), O(Q₁), halo, S(Q₁), or CN;

each q₁ is, independently, from 2 to 10;

each q₂ is, independently, 0 or 1;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

p is from 1 to 10; and

q₃ is from 1 to 10 with the proviso that when p is 0, q₃ is greater than 1.

5. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each of said nucleotides of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.
6. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein all of said nucleotides of said further portion are joined together in a continuous sequence by 3'-5' phosphodiester, 2'-5' phosphodiester, phosphorothioate, Sp phosphorothioate, Rp phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate, 3'-methylenephosphonate, methylene(methylimino), dimethylhydrazino, amide 3, amide 4 or boranophosphate linkages.
7. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein at least two of said nucleotides of said further portion are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 3' to said continuous sequence of said first portion of said plurality of nucleotides.
8. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein at least two of said nucleotides of said further portion are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 5' to said continuous sequence of said first portion.
9. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein at least two of said nucleotides of said further portion are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 3' to said continuous sequence of said first portion and at least two of said further portion are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 5' to said continuous sequence of said first portion.
10. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'=CH₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH₃

ribonucleotide, a 2'-C₂H₅ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH=CH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide.

11. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide a 2'-NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide.

12. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide.

13. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide.

14. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-CN arabinonucleotide, a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Cl arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Br arabinonucleotide, a 2'-N₃ arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide, a 2'-O-CH₃ arabinonucleotide or a 2'-dehydro-2'-CH₃ arabinonucleotide.

15. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide or a 2'-O-CH₃ arabinonucleotide.

16. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide or a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide.

17. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide.

18. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-SCH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-NH₂ ribonucleotide a 2'-NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl) ribonucleotide, a 2'-N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)₂ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH₃ ribonucleotide, a 2'-CH=CH₂ ribonucleotide or a 2'-C≡CH ribonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.

19. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-CN arabinonucleotide, a 2'-F arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Cl arabinonucleotide, a 2'-Br arabinonucleotide, a 2'-N₃ arabinonucleotide, a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide, a 2'-O-CH₃ arabinonucleotide or a 2'-dehydro-2'-CH₃ arabinonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-F ribonucleotide, a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ alkyl) ribonucleotide, or a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.

20. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said first portion, independently, is a 2'-F arabinonucleotide or a 2'-OH arabinonucleotide; and

each nucleotide of said further portion is a 2'-O-(C₁-C₆ substituted alkyl) ribonucleotide wherein the substitution is C₁-C₆ ether, C₁-C₆ thioether, amino, amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) or amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl)₂.

21. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 3' terminus end of said oligonucleotide.

22. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned at the 5' terminus of said oligonucleotide.
23. The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein said further portion comprises at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positions at the 3' terminus of said oligonucleotide; and
at least two nucleotides joined together in a continuous sequence that is positions at the 5' terminus of said oligonucleotide.
24. The oligonucleotide of claim 21 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethyhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.
25. The oligonucleotide of claim 24 wherein said two nucleotides are joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage or a methylene(methylimino) linkage.
26. The oligonucleotide of claim 22 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethyhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.

27. The oligonucleotide of claim 26 wherein said two nucleotides are joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage or a methylene(methylimino) linkage.

28. The oligonucleotide of claim 23 wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together and positioned at said 3' terminus comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethyhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage; and

wherein said at least two nucleotides joined together and positioned at said 5' terminus comprise nucleotides joined together by a 2'-5' phosphodiester linkage, a 3'-methylenephosphonate linkage, a Sp phosphorothioate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a dimethyhydrazino linkage, a 3'-deoxy-3'-amino phosphoroamidate linkage, an amide 3 linkage or an amide 4 linkage.

29. The oligonucleotide of claim 28 wherein said two nucleotides joined together at said 3' terminus and said two nucleotides joined together at said 5' terminus are, independently, joined together by 2'-5' phosphodiester linkages, 3'-methylenephosphonate linkages, Sp phosphorothioate linkages or methylene(methylimino) linkages.

30. The oligonucleotide of claim 21 wherein at least one of said two nucleotides joined together is a 2'-alkylamino substituted nucleotide.

31. The oligonucleotide of claim 22 wherein at least one of said two nucleotides joined together is a 2'-alkylamino substituted nucleotide.

32. The oligonucleotide of claim 23 wherein at least one of said two nucleotides joined together at said 3' terminus is a 2'-alkylamino substituted nucleotide, and

wherein at least one of said two nucleotides joined together at said 5' terminus is a 2'-alkylamino substituted nucleotide.

33. An oligonucleotide comprising a plurality of linked nucleotides, wherein:

at least one of said nucleotides has a C3' endo type pucker; and

at least two of said plurality of nucleotides are joined together in a continuous sequence and have a C2' endo type pucker or an O4' endo type pucker, provided that said nucleotides are not 2'-deoxy-erythro-pentofuranosyl nucleotides.

34. The oligonucleotide of claim 33 wherein said nucleotides having said C3' endo type pucker are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 3' to said continuous sequence of nucleotides having said C2' endo type pucker or O4' endo type pucker.

35. The oligonucleotide of claim 33 wherein said nucleotides having said C3' endo type pucker are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 5' to said continuous sequence of nucleotides having said C2' endo type pucker or O4' endo type pucker.

36. The oligonucleotide of claim 33 wherein at least two of said nucleotides having said C3' endo type pucker are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 3' to said continuous sequence of said nucleotides having said C2' endo type pucker or O4' endo type pucker; and

at least two of said nucleotides having said C3' endo type pucker are joined together in a continuous sequence that is positioned 5' to said continuous sequence of said nucleotides having said C2' endo type pucker or O4' endo type pucker.